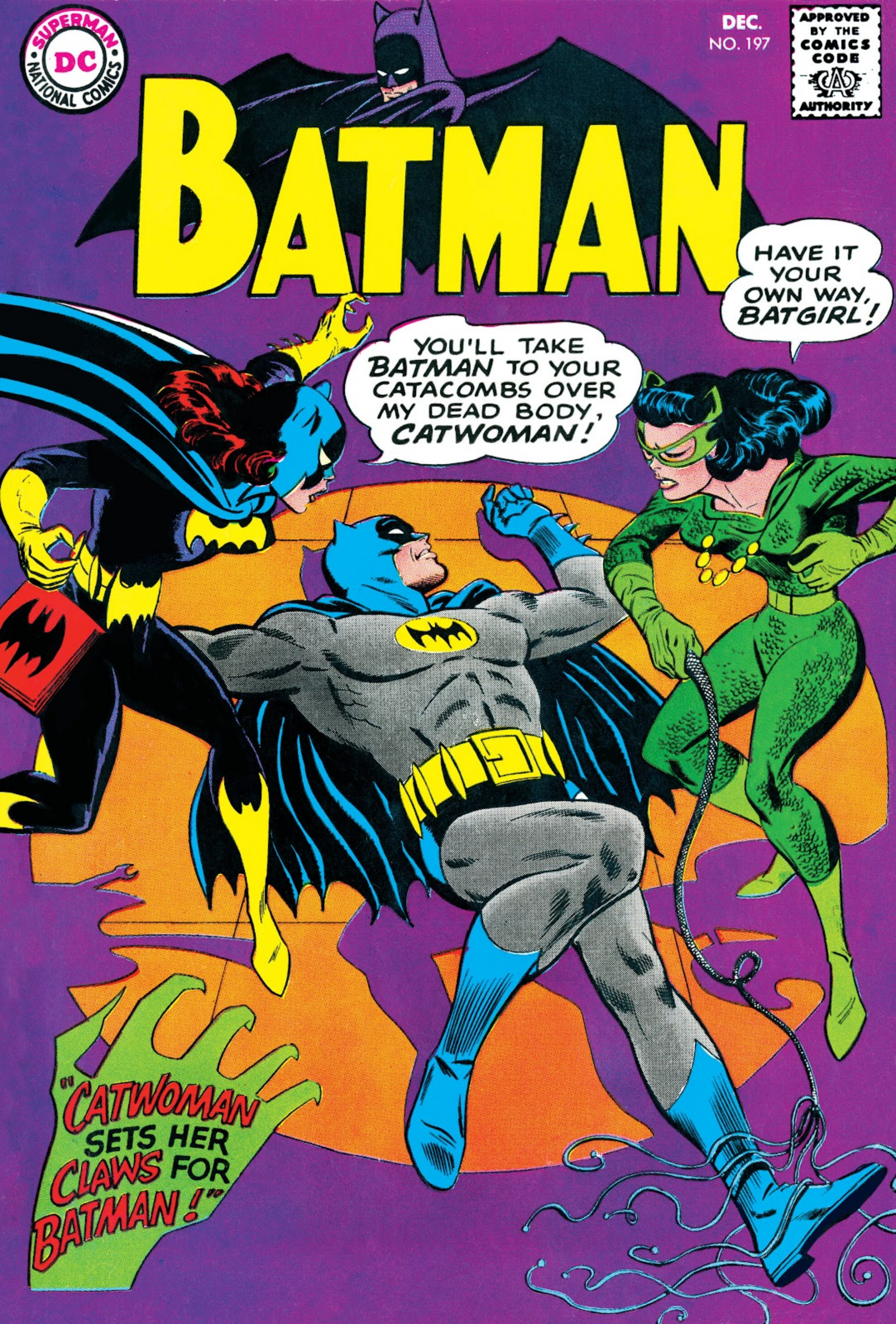

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
DEC.
NO. 197
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY, BATGIRL!
YOU'LL TAKE BATMAN TO YOUR CATACOMBS OVER MY DEAD BODY, CATWOMAN!
"CATWOMAN SETS HER CLAWS FOR BATMAN!"

WHAT A DESIGNING WOMAN WAS-- *CATWOMAN!* SHE HAD DESIGNS ON SNARING *BATMAN* FOR HER MATE-- EVEN IF IT MEANT ABANDONING HER ROLE AS THE *PRINCESS OF PLUNDER!* IF THE WORST CAME TO PASS AND HE TURNED HER DOWN, SHE'D MANAGE TO SURVIVE WITHOUT *BATMAN*-- WHILE MAKING SURE *HE* DIDN'T LIVE AT ALL!

"CATWOMAN Sets Her Claws for BATMAN!"

THIS IS THE KITTY CAR-- CHALLENGING THE BATMOBILE ON A NIGHTLY QUEST FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES IN GOTHAM CITY...
BATMAN-- YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE "TAKEN".!
THESE ARE THE CAT'S WHISKERS-- DELICATE FILAMENTS ATTUNED TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY...
AH! VILLAINY AFOOT-- IN THE WINERY!
GOTHAM WINERY INC.
AND THIS IS CATWOMAN-- THE CRIME CRUSADER-- AT THE WHEEL!...
THEY'RE AFTER ITS PAYROLL--BUT THEY'RE GOING TO LATCH ON TO MY CLAWS!
BATMAN-- THIS IS THE BEGINNING... OF YOUR END!...
YES--THIS IS THAT FELINE FEMALE --LONG A CATASTROPHIC THREAT TO LAW AND ORDER--NOW TURNED CROOK CATCHER EXTRAORDINARY!...
AS FOR BATGIRL-- SHE'S HAD IT!
THERE'S A NEW TOP CAT IN TOWN!
SHOCK WAVES RUN FROM THE LEATHER THONGS OF THE CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS AS...
GET YOUR GRUBBY FINGERS OFF THAT CASH!
Y!!!!!
?
WHO'S THAT?!
SWWIIIP!
2

CATWOMAN--?!
BUT YOU'RE A CROOK--LIKE US!
NO LONGER! I'VE REFORMED! THE "NOW LOOK" CATWOMAN HAS JOINED THE OTHER SIDE!

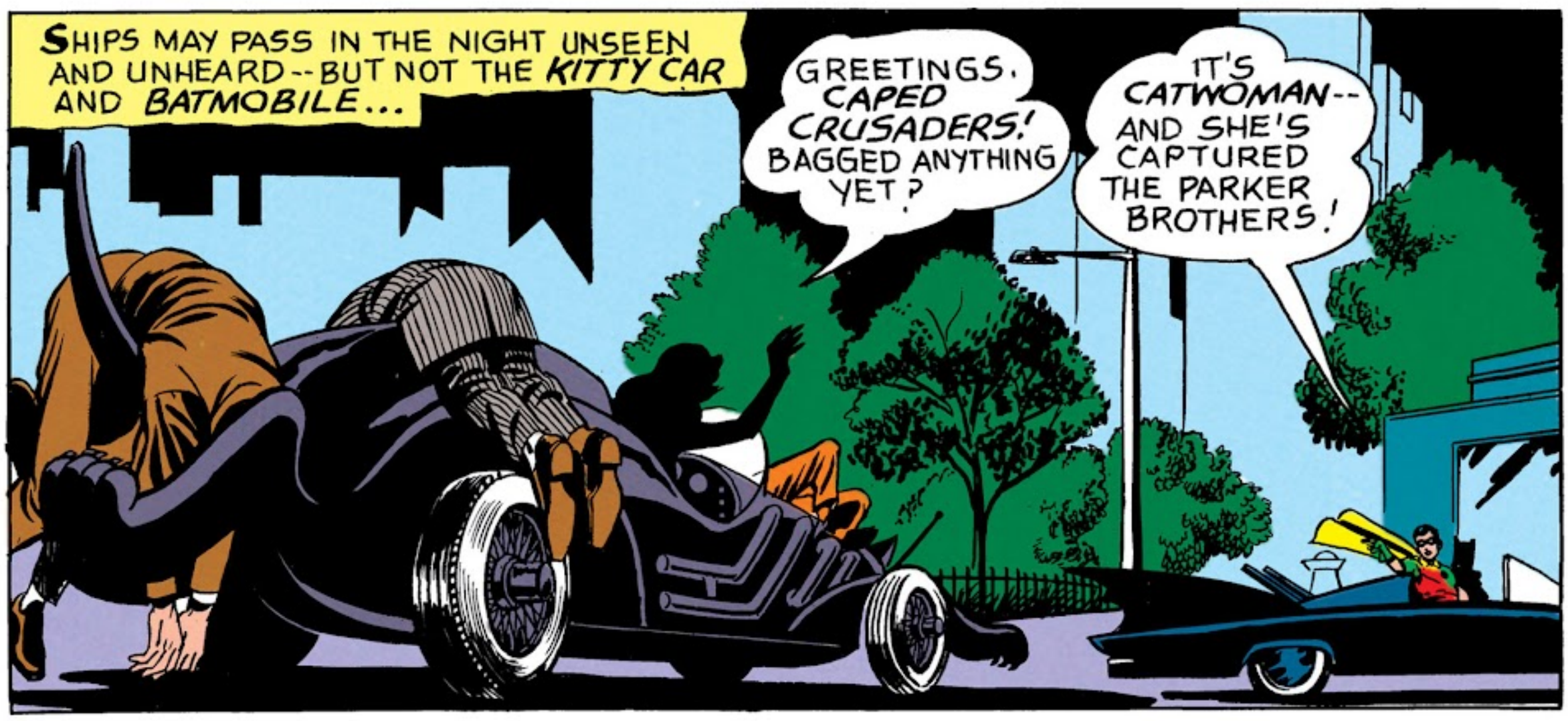
IN THAT CASE--WE'RE GONNA BRING YOUR NEW CAREER TO A SUDDEN STOP!
YEAH--WITH A COUPLE OF BULLET HOLES IN YOUR CAT'S HIDE!
BAH! YOU'RE NOT MEN--YOU'RE MICE!

AS THONGS STRETCH TO CURL ABOUT AN OVERHANGING CHANDELIER--CATWOMAN TUGS...
AND I USE TRAPS TO CATCH MICE!
KAA-RAASH!

AS THE THIRD CROOK TAKES TO HIS HEELS...
THERE'LL BE NO CHICKENING OUT WHILE I'M AROUND!
ZWANK
TWOW!

THIS'LL PUT YOU IN A CATABATIC TRANCE!
ZWAK!

NOW TO CROSS PATHS WITH BATMAN--SHOW HIM MY NIGHT'S CATCH--
--AND AT THE SAME TIME SHOW UP BATGIRL!


SHIPS MAY PASS IN THE NIGHT UNSEEN AND UNHEARD--BUT NOT THE KITTY CAR AND BATMOBILE...
GREETINGS, CAPED CRUSADERS! BAGGED ANYTHING YET?
IT'S CATWOMAN-- AND SHE'S CAPTURED THE PARKER BROTHERS!

WE'VE BEEN AFTER THAT GANG FOR WEEKS!
MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO ASK HER ROBIN!
WHAT'S SHE UP TO, BATMAN-- MASQUERADING IN THAT NEW UNIFORM?

YOU'RE NOW LOOKING AT THE NOW LOOK CATWOMAN-- MY CRIMINAL PAST IS BEHIND ME-- MY FUTURE IS TO JAIL ALL THE THIEVES I CAN LAY MY CAT-O'-NINE TAILS ON!
YOU'VE REFORMED BEFORE, CATWOMAN-- BUT IT NEVER LASTED LONG!

YOU SHALL SEE FOR YOURSELF, YOU DOUBTING ROBIN-- BEGINNING WITH THIS HAUL AT A WINERY WHERE I WENT CAT-WILD
IT'S A PURR-FECT DEMONSTRATION THAT ANYTHING BATGIRL CAN DO, I CAN DO-- BETTER!

TA-TA! I'LL BE SEEING YOU IN THE MORNING PAPERS!
THIS NIGHT'S WORK WILL CATAPULT ME INTO THE HEADLINES!
WHAT SNEAKY GAME IS SHE PLAYING?

I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHETHER SHE'S TRYING TO SHOW US UP -- OR BATGIRL--
--OR BOTH!
AT LEAST SHE'S "REFORMED" IN ONE WAY! IN THE PAST, HER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES USED TO INVOLVE A "CAT" IN SOME WAY OR OTHER! BUT THERE'S NO "CAT" IN GOTHAM WINERY!
NOT SO, ROBIN! I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE GOTHAM WINERY USES CATAWBA GRAPES TO MAKE ITS WINES!
SO MAYBE SHE DOES HAVE A CAT-TRICK HIDDEN BEHIND HER CAT-MASK! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO POSSESS THE PATIENCE OF A CAT--TO LEARN WHAT IT IS!
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT THE BAT-MOBILE DETECTION GEAR LOCATES A ROBBERY AT A SILK HANDKERCHIEF FACTORY...
NO SIGN OF OUR RIVAL--OR BATGIRL!
THAT SUITS ME FINE! NABBING CROOKS IS MAN'S WORK!
SILK FACTORY LTD.
AS IF TO REDEEM THEMSELVES IN THEIR OWN EYES (AFTER ALL, CATWOMAN CAUGHT THE PARKER GANG), THE CAPED CRUSADER AND BOY WONDER HURL THEMSELVES INTO THE FRAY...
A NECK-LOCK HIP-THROW FOR THIS ONE--
-- AND AN OLD-FASHIONED BELT IN THE STOMACH FOR MY CUSTOMER!
THAT WRAPS UP THIS TWO-SOME!
TOO BAD THERE AREN'T MORE! I'VE JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT!

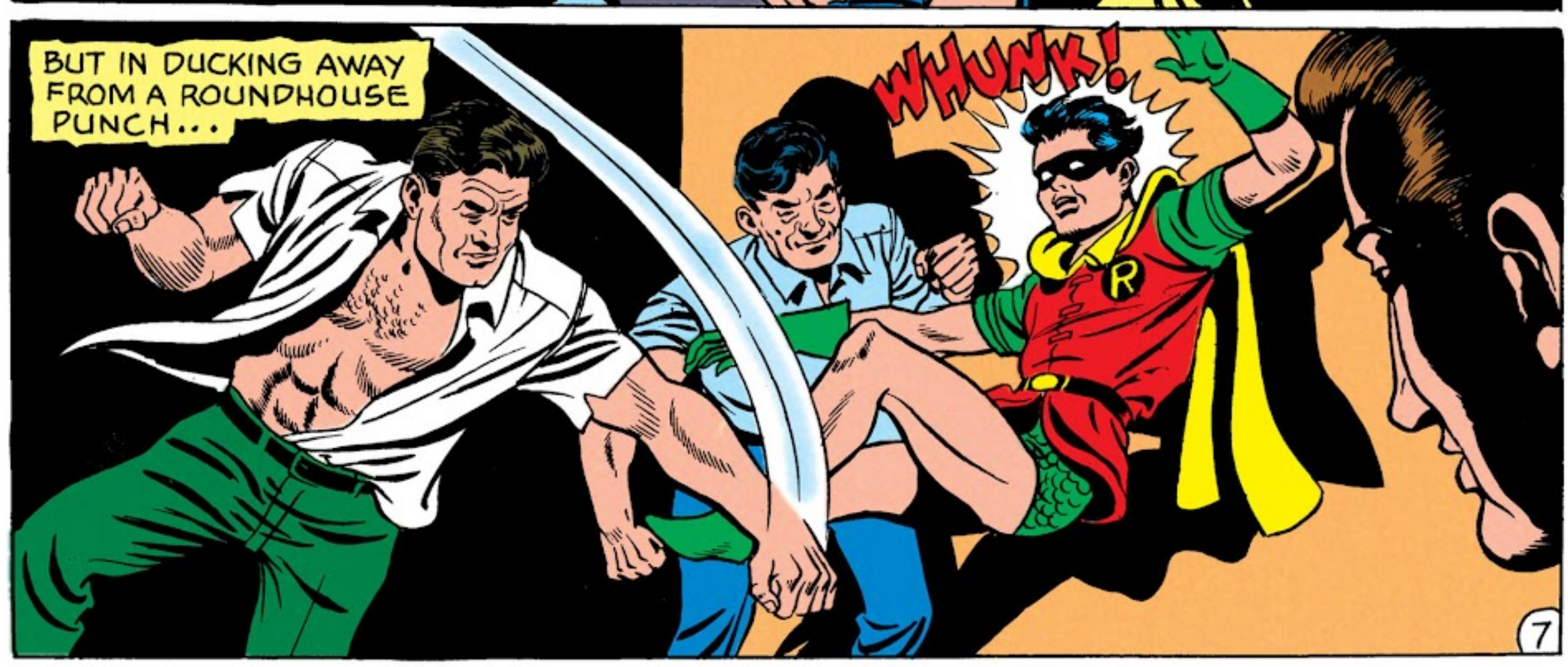
OUT OF THE NEXT ROOM STORM FOUR HEAVILY MUSCLED THUGS-- TO RAIN BLOWS ON THE UNSUSPECTING BATMAN...
THE BOSS HELD US IN RESERVE -- JUST FOR AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS!
SOCK!
FROM THE SIDE, THE TEEN TITAN EXPLODES INTO ACTION...
HERE I COME LIKE A BOLT FROM THE BLUE --
A BOLT OF BLUE SILK, THAT IS!
GNNFFF!
THEY'RE TOO HEAVY TO FLIP OFF...
GOOD BOY, ROBIN!
NOW I CAN THROW THESE CROOKS OFF-- GET TO MY FEET--
6

NOW THAT I'VE GOT MY FEET ON SOLID GROUND--
SWOTT!

I CAN SET MYSELF FOR A SOLID LEFT HOOK...
ZMAK!

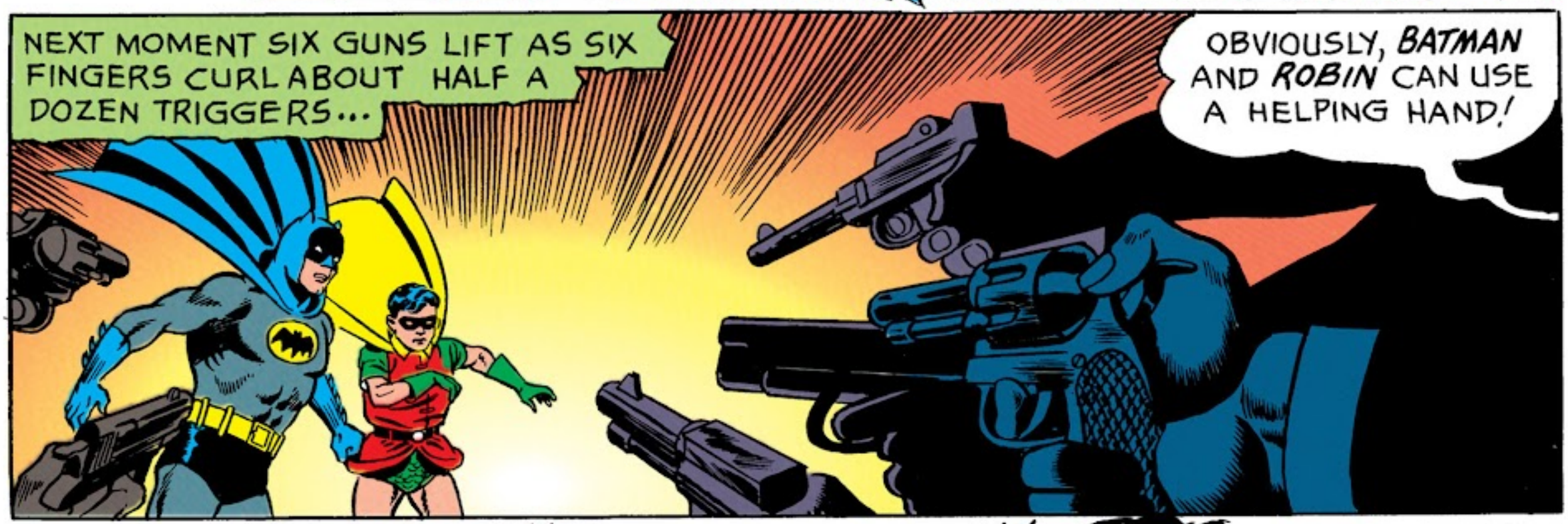
... AND A RIGHT UPPERCUT!
GYAAGH!
ZZOOCK!

MEANWHILE, THE BOY WONDER FINDS THREE THUGS A BIT MORE THAN HE CAN HANDLE...
GANGING UP ON ME--
NEED SOME MANEUVERING ROOM--!


BUT IN DUCKING AWAY FROM A ROUNDHOUSE PUNCH...
WHUNK!
R

SUDDENLY OUT OF THE SHADOWS OF THE HANDKERCHIEF FACTORY, WHIPS THE BATROPE...
THAT WAS GOOD NOOSE, BATMAN...
SOON AS I CLEAR MY HEAD-- I'LL PITCH IN...

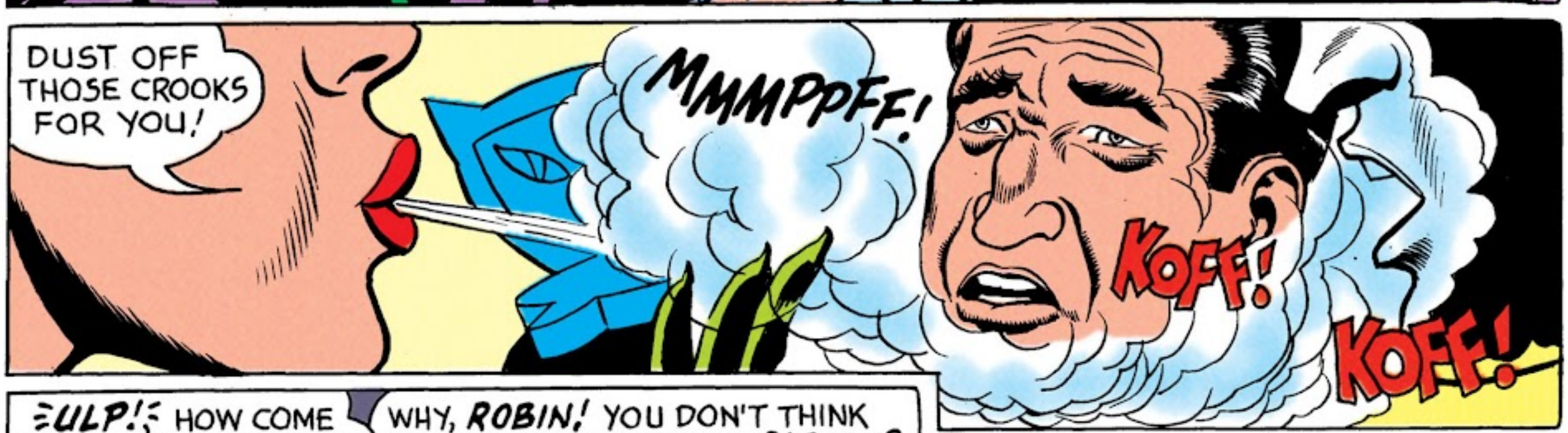
BUT AS THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER HAULS IN HIS CATCH...
THEY-- RUSHED ME--!


NEXT MOMENT SIX GUNS LIFT AS SIX FINGERS CURL ABOUT HALF A DOZEN TRIGGERS...
OBVIOUSLY, BATMAN AND ROBIN CAN USE A HELPING HAND!

INCHES FROM THE EARS OF THE SEXTET OF GUNMEN, TINY BOMBS ATTACHED TO THE THONGS OF THE CAT-O'-NINE TAILS DETONATE WITH DEAFENING FURY...
BOOM!
CRACK!
BLAPP!
BLAM!
WHOPP!
CRACK!
EEEEY! IT'S LIKE MY HEAD WAS BUSTIN' OPEN!

QUICK, ROBIN-- BEFORE THEY RECOVER FROM THAT NOISE BOMBARDMENT!
FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE--I'M ACTUALLY HAPPY TO SEE YOU, CATWOMAN!

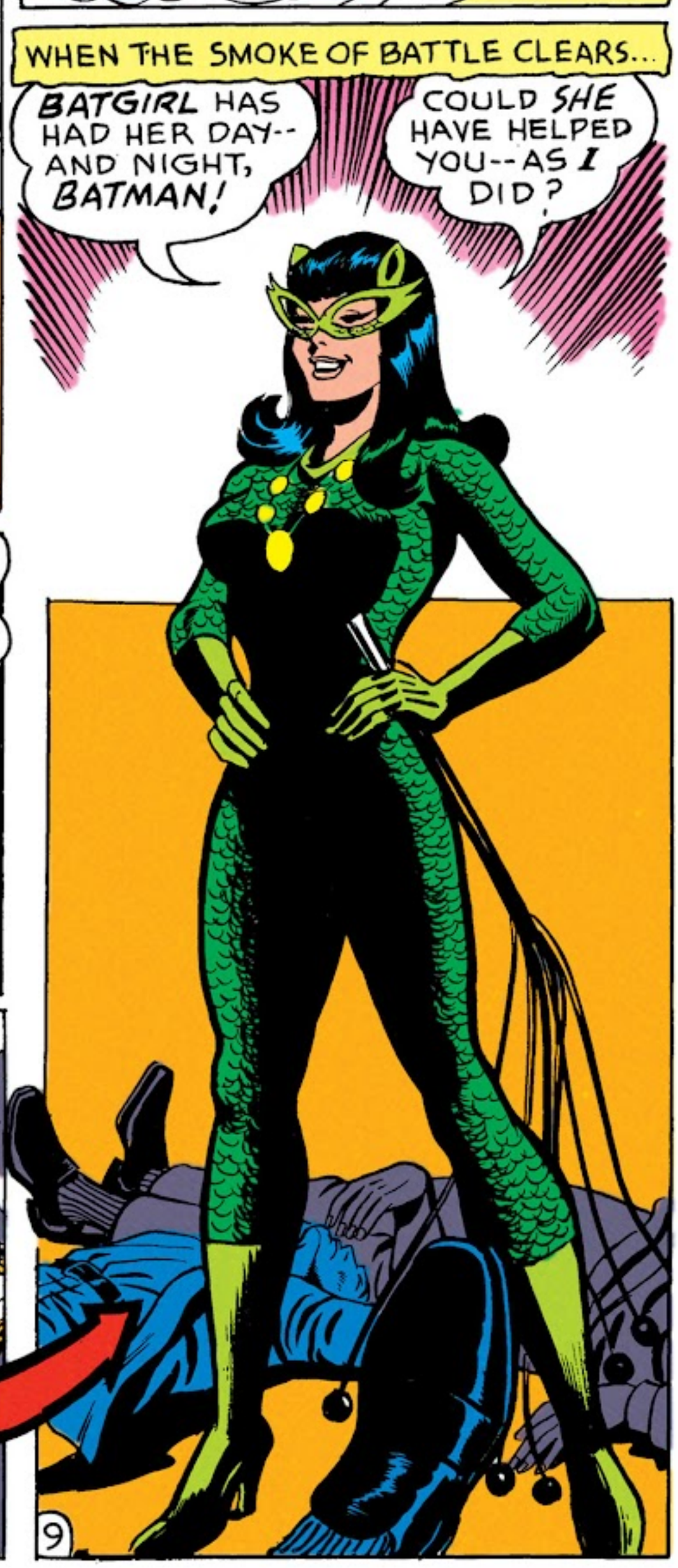
BLESS YOU FOR THOSE KIND WORDS, ROBIN!
JUST FOR THAT I'LL FETCH OUT MY CAT-COMPACT AND...


DUST OFF THOSE CROOKS FOR YOU!
MMMPPFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!

ULP! HOW COME THEY WERE AFFECTED BY THAT POWDER AND I WASN'T, CATWOMAN?
WHY, ROBIN! YOU DON'T THINK I'D HARM EITHER YOU OR BATMAN? MY CAT-POWDER WORKS ONLY AGAINST THIEVES--NOT CRIME CRUSADERS!
AND SPEAKING OF BATMAN -- PARDON ME, ROBIN!

MY CATARANG WILL LIGHTEN YOUR BURDEN, BATMAN SWEETIE!
DO I DETECT A NOTE OF AFFECTION IN CATWOMAN'S VOICE?

COULD BATGIRL DO THAT, BATMAN?
THERE'S THAT CONCERN OVER BATGIRL AGAIN!
WHONK!


WHEN THE SMOKE OF BATTLE CLEARS...
BATGIRL HAS HAD HER DAY-- AND NIGHT, BATMAN!
COULD SHE HAVE HELPED YOU--AS I DID?

IF YOU WANT A FELINE FRIEND TO HELP YOU PLAY CAT-AND-MOUSE WITH ANY MORE ROBBERS-- *REMEMBER CATWOMAN!*

YOU DEFINITELY ARE IN NEED OF--A WOMAN'S TOUCH!

WHY IS SHE MAKING THOSE CATTY REMARKS ABOUT BATGIRL?

AS THE *FELINE FURY* DRIVES OFF...

ONE THING'S FOR SURE-- WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE AS WELL AS WE DID WITHOUT HER!

THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT A "CAT" IN A SILK HANDKERCHIEF FACTORY! PERHAPS SHE'S REFORMED PERMANENTLY!

HAS **CATWOMAN** REALLY ABANDONED HER CAT-MOTIVE? THIS BURNING THOUGHT SEARS THE MIND OF BARBARA (**BATGIRL**) GORDON NEXT DAY IN THE LIBRARY OF WHICH SHE IS BOSS-LADY...

I SEEM TO REMEMBER SOMETHING ABOUT SILK HANDKERCHIEFS... A PARTICULAR WORD THAT MY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY TELLS ME MAY FIT IN...

ALONE IN HER OFFICE, SHE TURNS ON THE RADIO, FOR BABS GORDON HAS TRAINED HERSELF TO READ A BOOK AND SIMULTANEOUSLY ABSORB WHAT IS BEING SAID TO HER...

IF **ROBIN** COULD SEE ME NOW, HE'D SAY THAT SINCE I HAVE A ***PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY***, I OUGHT TO WEAR A ***FILMY*** DRESS WHEN I USE IT...

CLICK

*OUR REPORTER ON THE SPOT INFORMS US THAT LAST NIGHT WHEN **BATMAN** MADE HIS REPORT TO THE POLICE, HE TOLD THEM THAT **CATWOMAN** AGAIN REMARKED -- "ANYTHING **BATGIRL** CAN DO, **I** CAN DO--**BETTER**!"*

AH--HERE'S THAT WORD--

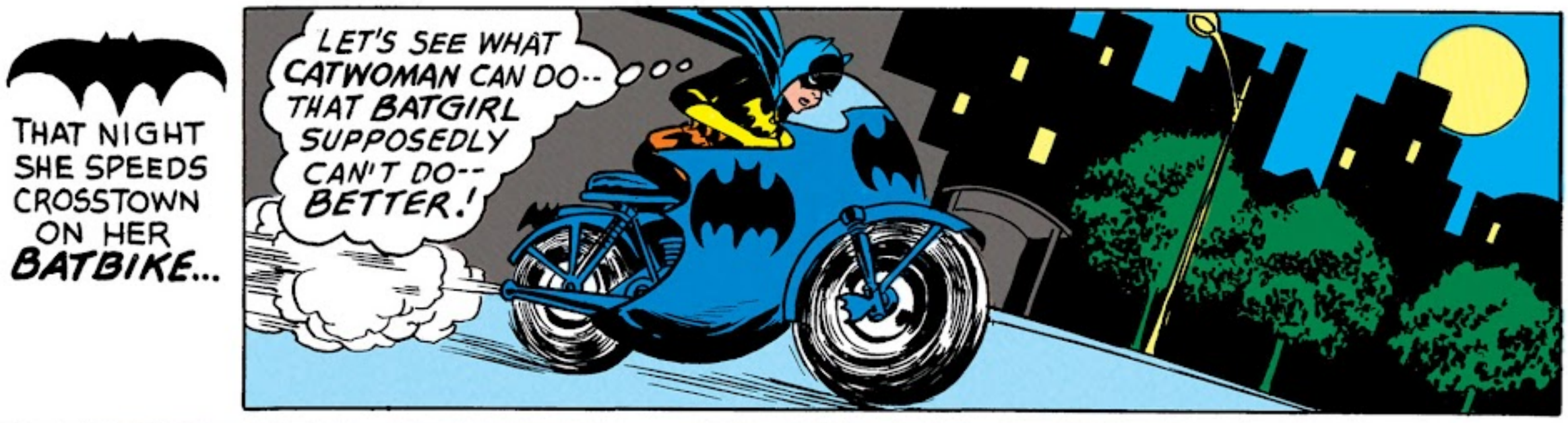
PULICAT!

Pulicat

*A PULI**CAT** IS A SILK BANDANA OR HANDKERCHIEF! IT DERIVES ITS NAME FROM **LAKE PULICAT IN MADRAS, INDIA**, WHERE IT IS MANUFACTURED--WHAT'S THAT?*

CATWOMAN MENTIONING BATGIRL?

THE INFERENCE WAS THAT CATWOMAN WAS MOCKING BATGIRL...
WAS SHE NOW? MAYBE I'D JUST BETTER SEE FOR MYSELF, NEXT TIME SHE GOES PROWLING IN THAT KITTY CAR OF HERS!
SHE'S ROUSED MY FEMININE CURIOSITY-- AS WELL AS MY FEMININE INTUITION!
AND THAT SAME INTUITION TELLS ME CATWOMAN WILL STRIKE AT THE GOTHAM WAX MUSEUM-- WHERE A BIER OF A FAR EASTERN MAHARAJAH IS ON LOAN FROM HIS NATIVE COUNTRY!
ESPECIALLY SINCE A BIER IS ALSO KNOWN AS A-- CATAFALQUE!
Daily Gotham
THERE ARE TREASURE CHESTS OF REAL EMERALDS, REAL DIAMONDS, REAL PEARLS AT THAT CATAFALQUE, TO LEND THE WAX FIGURE AN AIR OF REALITY AS IT LIES IN STATE!
IF CROOKS MAKE A TRY FOR THOSE JEWELS-- CATWOMAN IS BOUND TO MAKE A TRY FOR THE CROOKS!
INSIDE HER PRIVATE CLOSET, FINGERS PULL DOWN THE ROLL-RIM OF A BERET, FORMING A COWL...
NEITHER OF THEM IS GOING TO GET WHAT THEY WANT...
...FOR A SHOWDOWN WITH CATWOMAN...
... BECAUSE I'M GOING TO SHOW UP...
REVERSING HER SKIRT, SHE TURNS IT INTO A CAPE...
SHE ROLLS UP HER BOOT-FLAPS...
HER SPECIALLY DESIGNED HANDBAG BECOMES HER WEAPONS-POUCH...
...AS BATGIRL!


THAT NIGHT SHE SPEEDS CROSSTOWN ON HER BATBIKE...
LET'S SEE WHAT CATWOMAN CAN DO-- THAT BATGIRL SUPPOSEDLY CAN'T DO-- BETTER!

AND SO-- WITHIN THE SHADOWS OF A CATAFALQUE...
WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T BATMAN'S UNPRECIOUS LITTLE HELP-MATE!
I'M HERE TO PREVENT CRIME, CATWOMAN-- WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?
WHEN CATWOMAN AND BATGIRL MEET--FEMALE TEMPERS ARE BOUND TO FLARE! WHAT EFFECT WILL THIS HAVE-- ON BATMAN HIMSELF?
12

YOU CAN HAVE FIRST CRACK AT THOSE CROOKS, BATGIRL!
I'VE ALREADY CONVINCED BATMAN I'M A BETTER FIGHTER THAN YOU--SO AFTER YOU FAIL MISERABLY AT CAPTURING THOSE CROOKS, I'LL CONVINCE YOU, TOO!
TALK IS CHEAP...

WHAT COUNTS IS ACTION--OOPS!
MY CHOP MISSED HIS NECK--LANDED ON HIS SHOULDER INSTEAD!

MY TURN NOW, BATGIRL!
BETTER SWITCH TO A JUDO DEFENSE AGAINST THAT BILLY-ARMED THUG...

WHA--?! INSTEAD OF GETTING MY LEVERAGE GRIP UNDER HIS ARM, MY HAND WENT OVER IT!

JUST AS SOON AS YOU ADMIT HOW INEPT YOU ARE, BATGIRL--I'LL TAKE OVER!
IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME WHY YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOURSELF KILLED BEFORE THIS, IF YOU CAN'T DO ANY BETTER THAN THAT!

AGAIN THE DOMINOED DAREDOLL IS OFF TARGET...
HURLED MYSELF AT HIS LEGS--
WHUMP!
AND ENDED UP AGAINST THIS CATAFALQUE POST?!

SUDDENLY THE CAT-O'-NINE TAILS LOOPS ACROSS THE ROOM...
THWAAK!
MUSTN'T HIT A LADY, BOYS -- ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE'S DOWN!

REALLY! WHAT DID BATMAN EVER SEE IN YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE, BATGIRL?
YOU'VE MADE A MISHMASH OF THIS!
SHE'S RIGHT! I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT--
BONK!

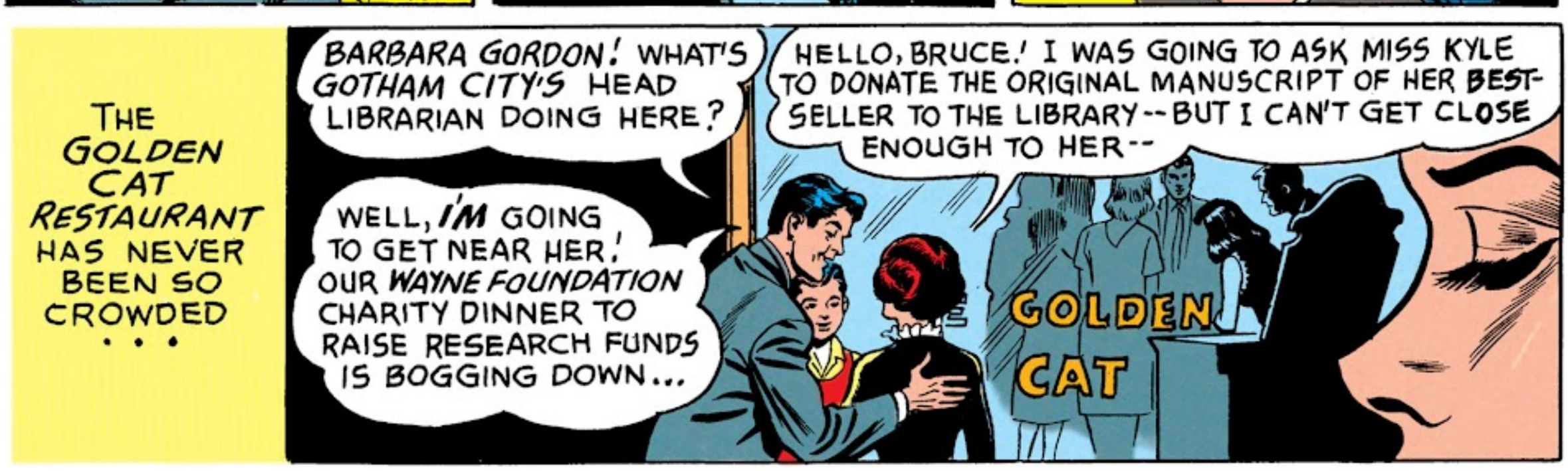
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE, GIRLIE!
THE IDEA IS TO HIT THE CROOKS--LIKE SO!--AND KNOCK THEM OUT!
THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TURN THEM OVER TO THE POLICE!
THWAK!

IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS, SOON AFTERWARD...
BATMAN! I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
I'VE BEEN ASKING ALL ALONG IF BATGIRL COULD DO WHAT I COULD--AND NOW I HAVE THE PROOF POSITIVE!
GO ON, BATGIRL! TELL BATMAN WHAT HAPPENED!

DISAPPOINTMENT AND CHAGRIN SHOW IN EVERY INCH OF BATGIRL'S DROOPING HEAD AND SHOULDERS AS...
CATWOMAN'S RIGHT--SHE SUCCEEDED WHERE I FAILED!
IF I HAD BEEN ALONE--THOSE CROOKS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH THE LOOT--
LEAVING ME BEHIND IN--A SORRY STATE...

THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE AS SHE TURNS AND WALKS AWAY...
NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW--WHAT IT COST ME TO SAY THAT--IN FRONT OF THAT OTHER WOMAN!
I OUGHT TO HANG UP MY UNIFORM--QUIT THE CROOK-CATCHING BUSINESS--LEAVE IT TO THE EXPERTS!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, SELINA (CATWOMAN) KYLE FINDS HERSELF THE MOST CELEBRATED WOMAN IN GOTHAM CITY...
GOSH, BRUCE--LOOK AT THE PEOPLE WANTING HER TO AUTOGRAPH COPIES OF HER BOOK THEY BOUGHT!
SHE'S THE LION--LIONESS--OF THE HOUR, DICK!


THE GOLDEN CAT RESTAURANT HAS NEVER BEEN SO CROWDED...
BARBARA GORDON! WHAT'S GOTHAM CITY'S HEAD LIBRARIAN DOING HERE?
WELL, I'M GOING TO GET NEAR HER! OUR WAYNE FOUNDATION CHARITY DINNER TO RAISE RESEARCH FUNDS IS BOGGING DOWN...
HELLO, BRUCE! I WAS GOING TO ASK MISS KYLE TO DONATE THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF HER BEST-SELLER TO THE LIBRARY--BUT I CAN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HER--
GOLDEN CAT

...SO I THOUGHT, MISS KYLE, THAT IF YOU WOULD ATTEND THE AFFAIR, IT'D BE A SELLOUT!
SORRY, MR. WAYNE. IN MY NEW ROLE OF CROOK-CATCHER--I HAVE NO TIME FOR SUCH THINGS!
OH, SELINA--CATWOMAN! IF ONLY YOU REALIZED YOU WERE IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR BELOVED BATMAN!
YES, INDEED! CATWOMAN'S NIGHTS ARE FULLY OCCUPIED AS SHE BATTLES THE LAWLESS FROM DUSK TO DAWN...
BATGIRL TEAMED UP WITH BATMAN TO MAKE HIM FALL FOR HER--BUT NOW SHE'S OUT OF THE PICTURE!
AND STILL BATMAN HASN'T TOLD ME HE LOVES ME! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM, ANYHOW?

WHEN SHE MEETS THE CAPED CRUSADER, SHE THROWS DISCRETION TO THE WIND, AND...
MADE UP YOUR MIND YET, BATMAN?
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ASK ME TO JOIN YOU IN CROOK-CATCHING--AND IN WEDLOCK?
I'M QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW, CATWOMAN!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT! HE'S ALOOF--AND I'M IN LOVE!
HERE I GO AND ELIMINATE BATGIRL--AND ALL HE CAN SAY IS--HE'S SATISFIED!
WELL, HE MAY BE SATISFIED--BUT I'M NOT!

OOOH! THAT MAN MAKES ME SO MAD--I FEEL LIKE GOING BACK TO CAT-CRIMES AGAIN!
BUT I'LL GIVE HIM ONE MORE CHANCE!
SINCE I'M A WOMAN IN LOVE--I'D RATHER BE WITH THE MAN I LOVE!

IF HE WON'T MAKE THE FIRST MOVE--I'VE GOT TO STOP BEING COY--I'LL ASK BATMAN TO MARRY ME!
IF HE REFUSES--AHH, BUT HE WON'T REFUSE, NOT WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE CHOICE I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM!

IN THE BATCAVE, THE FOLLOWING NIGHT..
I DON'T WANT TO SOUND EGOTISTICAL, ROBIN--BUT I'VE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT CATWOMAN IS IN LOVE WITH ME!
OF COURSE SHE IS! EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT--BUT YOU!
THE QUESTION IS--WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

MAKE A CERTAIN PRECAUTIONARY MOVE BEFORE GOING OUT TONIGHT--AND SO ARE YOU!
ME? BUT SHE'S NOT IN LOVE WITH ME!
PERHAPS NOT! NEVERTHELESS, WE'LL BOTH TAKE THAT CERTAIN PRECAUTION!

THE CRIME-PATROL BEGINS WITH THE *BATMOBILE* HEADING FOR A RARE COIN EMPORIUM! ALSO CONVERGING ON THAT SAME *COIN CHATEAU* ARE THE *KITTY CAR*--AND THE *BATBIKE*...

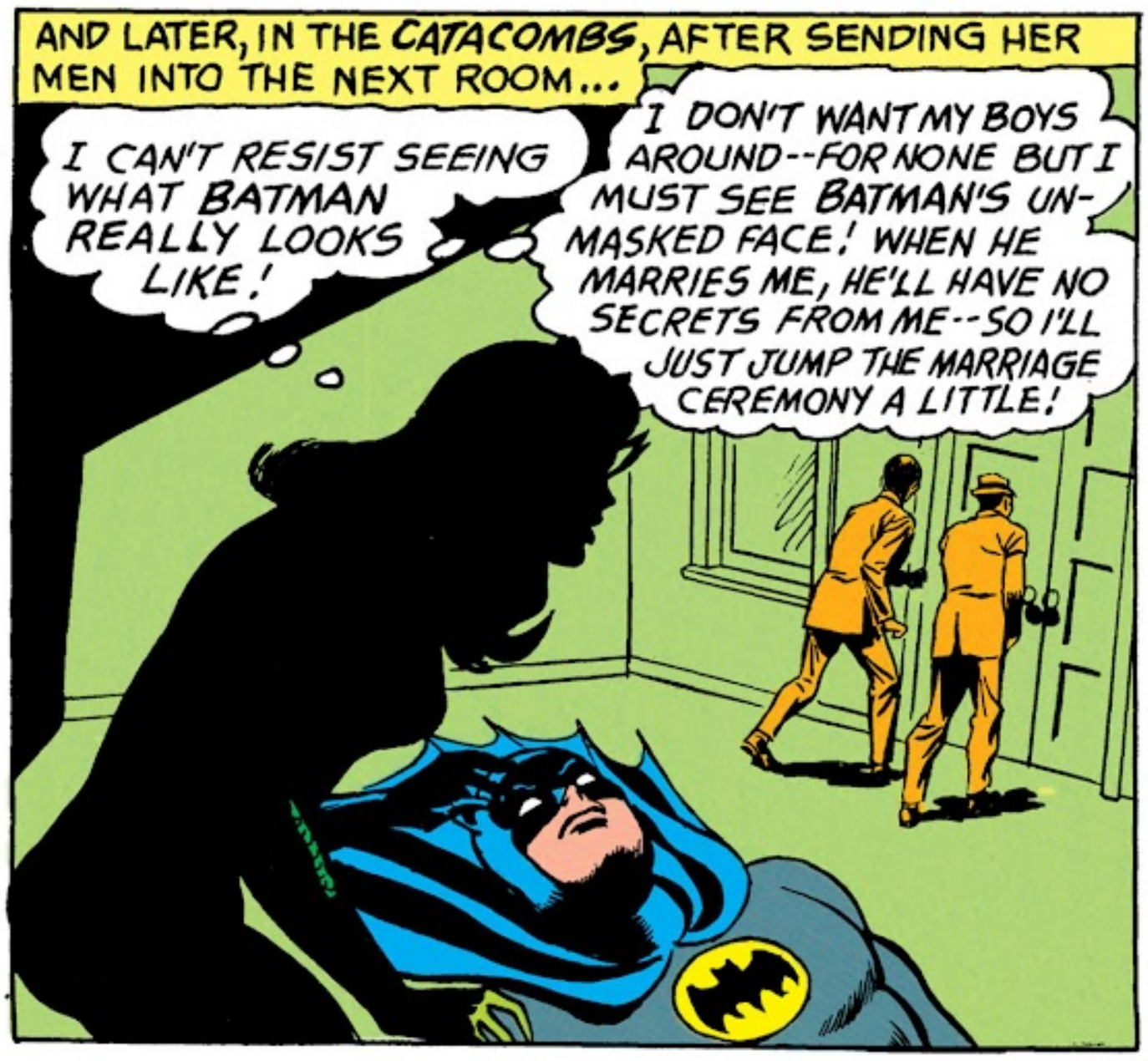
THE COLLECTION OF RARE DUCATS--SILVER COINS ISSUED IN 1140 BY THE DUKE OF APULIA--MAY TEMPT SOME CROOKS INTO STRIKING FOR THEM!

STARTLED FACES LIFT FROM PILES OF COSTLY COINS AS...

NOW THAT CAT'S REALLY SHOWING HER CLAWS!
BUT SHE ISN'T GOING TO GET AWAY WITH IT!
THUNK!
I'M TAKING YOU TO MY CATACOMBS, BATMAN!

YOU'LL TAKE BATMAN TO YOUR CATACOMBS OVER MY DEAD BODY, CATWOMAN!
HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY, BATGIRL!

NEXT INSTANT...
;OHHH; I'M BEGINNING TO CATCH WISE!
ALL THOSE "CRIMINALS" YOU CAUGHT--WERE YOUR OWN MEN! NO WONDER THEY ONLY ROBBED PLACES WITH A "CAT" TIE-IN!
GNNG!


AND LATER, IN THE CATACOMBS, AFTER SENDING HER MEN INTO THE NEXT ROOM...
I CAN'T RESIST SEEING WHAT BATMAN REALLY LOOKS LIKE!
I DON'T WANT MY BOYS AROUND--FOR NONE BUT I MUST SEE BATMAN'S UN-MASKED FACE! WHEN HE MARRIES ME, HE'LL HAVE NO SECRETS FROM ME--SO I'LL JUST JUMP THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY A LITTLE!

BUT AS THAT COWL PEELS BACK...
EH?!
WHAT A MAN! HE OUTSMARTED ME--BY PAINTING HIS FACE IN THE SEMBLANCE OF HIS OWN MASK!
WELL, AT LEAST I CAN HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING WHAT ROBIN AND BATGIRL REALLY LOOK LIKE!

ONCE MORE THE PRINCESS OF PLUNDER STARES IN ANGRY DISMAY...
THEY'RE PAINT-MASKED TOO.'
I'D TRY TO REMOVE THAT PAINT-- BUT IF THEY WERE ALL SO FORE-SIGHTED TO TAKE SUCH PRE-CAUTIONS, I'M SURE SOME SPECIAL CHEMICAL IS NEEDED TO GET RID OF IT.'
SUMMONING HER MEN FROM THE NEXT ROOM, THE FELINE FELON SNAPS HER ORDERS...
PICK THEM UP! PUT THEM IN THE TRAP I'VE ARRANGED FOR THEM.'
AND DON'T FORGET TO REMOVE THEIR UTILITY BELTS--AND WEAPONS-BAG!
SHORTLY...
GOOD! I SEE YOU CAME TO FIRST, BATMAN!
WE HAVE MATTERS TO TALK OVER, YOU AND I.' YOU SEE, I REFORMED FOR YOU -- BUT YOU HAVEN'T REWARDED ME BY PROPOSING TO ME!
SO I'VE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO FORCE YOU TO DECIDE--
DO I GO BACK TO MY CRIME CAREER AS CATWOMAN--OR ARE YOU GOING TO SAY THE MAGIC WORDS "MARRY ME!"-- AND MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD?
NEITHER ROBIN NOR BATGIRL CAN HELP YOU NOW, SO DO I GO ON RUTHLESSLY ROBBING--OR ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME YOUR BRIDE?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR DILLY-DALLYING! MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
19

WITH A GRIM SMILE THE *CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER* HURLS HIMSELF FORWARD...

REALLY, NOW, *CATWOMAN!* YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO STAND HERE AND LET YOU THREATEN ME LIKE THIS?

CAREFUL, *BATMAN*-- I WARN YOU!

SUDDENLY, MYSTERIOUSLY, THE AIR IS RENT BY AN ANGRY CAT-SNARL AS THE *MASKED-MAN-HUNTER* STIFFENS IN AGONY...

MEEE-OWWRRRR

OHHH! THAT SOUND-- STABBING INTO MY BODY-- MY BRAIN--LIKE SHARP HOT KNIVES!

IF YOU CAN'T STAND IT, *BATMAN*--GET BACK ON THAT METAL DISC!

PANTING AND SWEATING WITH THE STRAIN OF TORTURED NERVES, *BATMAN* DROPS INTO THE SAFETY ZONE OF THE *SOUND-TRAP*...

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE MY *CAT*APHONIC TRAP! THOSE CAT SNARLS FORM AN INVISIBLE *CAT'S CRADLE* OF SOUND WAVES--BOUNDING BACK AND FORTH LIKE STRINGS CHILDREN PUT ON THEIR FINGERS--WHICH GO RIGHT THROUGH YOUR BODY TO THE BRAIN'S CONTROL CENTER!

NOW--GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER! AM I TO BE-- *BRIDE OR BURGLAR?*

THE ANSWER IS--*NO!*

ON YOUR HEAD BE IT!

I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE-- TORTURED BY THE KNOWLEDGE I'M GOING OUT TO ROB THE WORLD'S MOST FABULOUS POKER GAME!

STARTING OUT WITH THE GAME'S "*KITTY*" OF COURSE!

SHORTLY, AT A PLUSH PRIVATE CLUBROOM IN *GOTHAM CITY*...

THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD--AND THE WEALTHIEST WOMAN!

I'LL TAKE NOT ONLY THE *KITTY* BUT THE POT OF CASH AND JEWELS!

SINCE EACH OF THEM COMES TO THESE ANNUAL POKER GAMES WITH A *MILLION DOLLARS*-- I'VE MADE A REAL "KILLING"! I'M THE ONLY WINNER!

SNAPPPP!

SOON, BACK IN THE CATACOMBS HIDEAWAY...
MEN, PUT MY FIVE MILLION HAUL BEFORE BATMAN-- AND LET HIM EAT HIS HEART OUT.!
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT ROBBERY, BATMAN --YOU FORCED ME INTO IT.!

AFTER HER CAT-CROOKS LEAVE...
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CHANGE YOUR MIND--AND I'LL SEND BACK THE LOOT!
YOU CAN NEVER CHANGE YOUR SPOTS, CATWOMAN!
ONCE A CROOK-- ALWAYS A CROOK WHERE YOU'RE CONCERNED!

BATGIRL COMING THROUGH MY SOUND-TRAP--?!
HOWEVER YOU MANAGED IT, I'LL QUICKLY CUT YOU DOWN!
GOING TO USE THAT CAT'S-EYE BAUBLE AGAIN TO DISTORT MY VISION--!

MY KARATE-HAND IS QUICKER THAN YOUR CAT'S-EYE...
SOK!
KRAAAKK!
SNAP!
AIEEE!

YOU MEN IN THE NEXT ROOM--
HELP! HELP!
WHUMMMPP!

BUT AS *CATWOMAN'S* REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE--*BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* LEAP OUT OF THEIR TRAP TOO...

THAT WAS *OUR* SIGNAL FOR ACTION, *ROBIN!*

DO YOU HAVE THE FEELING THAT SIGNAL SHOULD HAVE BEEN-- A *CAT-CALL?*

PAPPP!

SOKK!

WHEN THE BATTLING IS OVER...

HOW DID YOU EVER GET OUT OF MY ESCAPE-PROOF SOUND-TRAP, *BATMAN?*

WITH THE HELP OF *BATGIRL!* SHE SIMPLY *TALKED* ME *OUT* OF IT!

"WHEN WE WERE ALONE, I ASKED HER TO REMOVE HER GLOVE AND SWING IT BACK AND FORTH WHILE I CONCENTRATED MY ATTENTION ON IT..."

IT ISN'T WORKING! I'M NOT BEING *HYPNOTIZED!*

I HAVE AN IDEA, *BATMAN!* I'VE READ A GREAT DEAL ABOUT HYPNOTISM, THOUGH I'VE NEVER PRACTICED IT!

BY SWINGING MY GLOVE GENTLY AGAINST THE TRAP'S SOUND-BARRIER--I'LL MAKE IT EMIT LOW SOUNDS--SOOTHING NOISES LIKE A SOFT PURR...

HYPNOTISTS INDUCE SLEEP BY SOFT WORDS -- OR SOUNDS --

MEEOOOWW MEOOOOWW

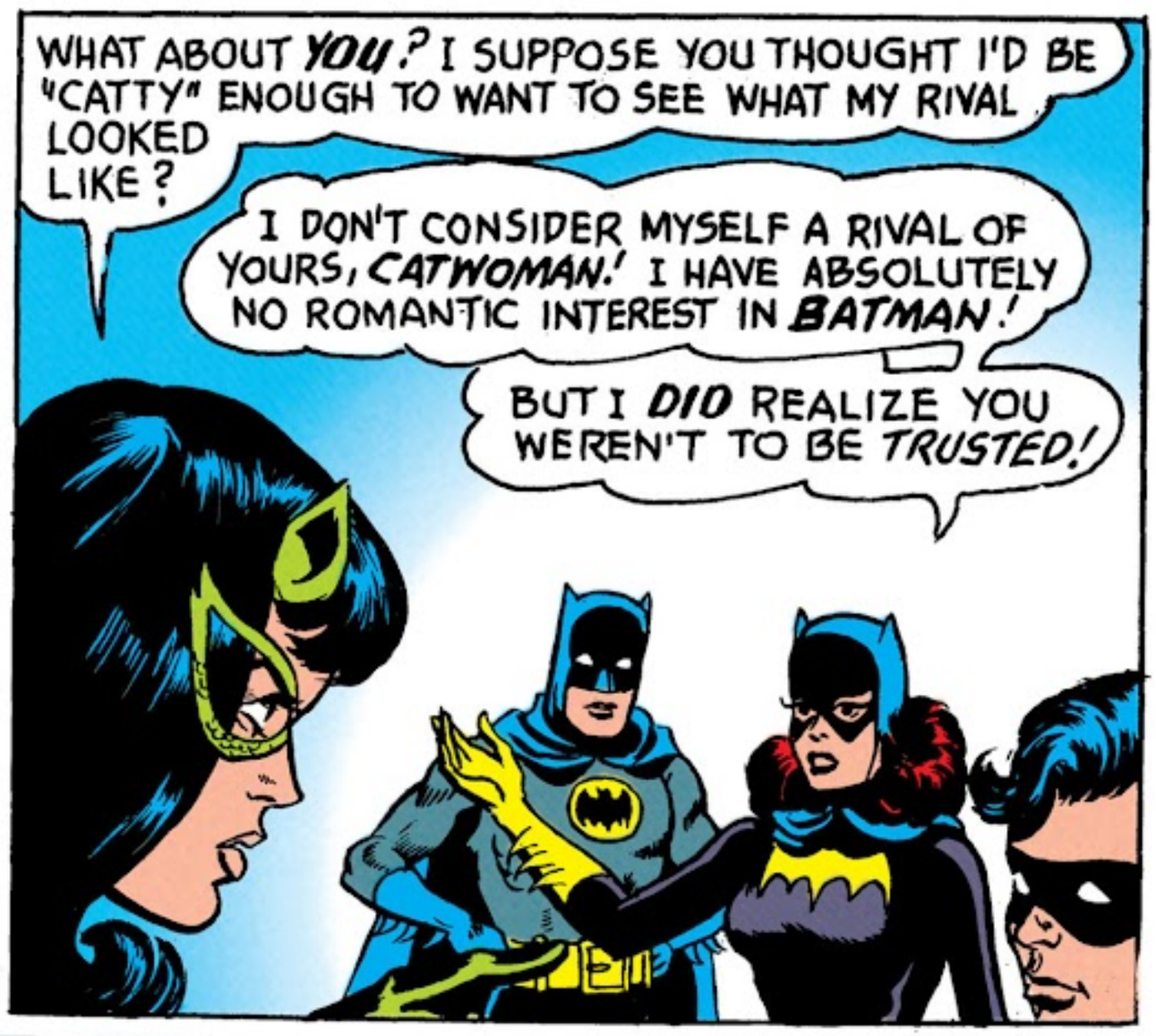
"SURE ENOUGH I FELL UNDER HER SPELL--AND JUST AS HYPNOTIZED PEOPLE FEEL NO SENSATION OF PAIN FROM A PIN-PRICK OR A MATCH FLAME HELD UNDER THEIR FINGERS--NEITHER DID I AS..."

WALK FORWARD, *BATMAN!* YOU WILL EXPERIENCE NO PAIN --

NOW STEP OVER TO THE CONTROLS AND SHUT OFF THE SOUND-TRAP!

ATTA GIRL-- YOU'RE DOING IT!

ONE LAST QUESTION-- HOW COME YOU PAINTED YOUR FACES WITH MASKS? SURELY YOU COULDN'T HAVE ANTICIPATED I'D TRY TO UNMASK YOU?
BUT I DID, CATWOMAN! I REALIZED YOU LOVED ME--AND WHAT WOMAN DOESN'T WANT TO LOOK UPON THE FACE OF HER BELOVED?
AND I ALWAYS FOLLOW BATMAN'S EXAMPLE!


WHAT ABOUT YOU? I SUPPOSE YOU THOUGHT I'D BE "CATTY" ENOUGH TO WANT TO SEE WHAT MY RIVAL LOOKED LIKE?
I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF A RIVAL OF YOURS, CATWOMAN! I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO ROMANTIC INTEREST IN BATMAN!
BUT I DID REALIZE YOU WEREN'T TO BE TRUSTED!

NO ROMANTIC INTEREST IN BATMAN? HAH! THAT'S A LIKELY STORY!
IT HAPPENS TO BE TRUE, CATWOMAN! IF YOU'D KNOWN THAT FROM THE BEGINNING--YOU WOULDN'T BE ABOUT TO CAT-WALK TO THE NEAREST JAIL!
23
The End